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pared with the old method of melting. The superintendent of the establishment of St. Lazare has declared, that they have melted nine thousand pounds of tallow with 222 pounds of coal, which cost eighteen francs, instead of three steres of wood, at the price of thirty-three francs, by the old way.

3d. That there is an equal saving in labour.

4th. That accidents from fire are absolutely impossible.

Account of a Fire Escape ; invented by M. Daujon.

(From the Bulletin de la Societie d'Encouragement.)

M. Daujon has made a trial of a new kind of cloth slide, which he calls a *Sac de Genéve*, by which persons on the highest stories of houses may expeditiously descend, when a fire leaves them no other method of escaping. This machine was exhibited and used in the presence of several members of the society. They have reported,

1st. That the bag is composed of a single piece of strong cloth, about twenty-two metres long and two metres wide, the two selvages being sewed together with thin cord passed through eyelet holes.

2d. That the mouth of the bag is terminated by a frame, which is fastened to the window by means of a wooden bar, and by strong straps.

3d. That at about the distance of a metre and a half from the mouth of the bag is placed a running knot, which is made with a cord that runs in iron rings, and which can be managed by persons on the ground. This knot is intended to make a space between the objects or persons that descend by the slide.

4th. That the bag is closed by a circle of iron, which keeps the bottom extended, and on which the descending objects rest.

They farther observe, that the ladder which M. Daujon employs in order to raise the bag, is composed of three parts, mounted on a cart with a slide, so that it may be directed at will; and that by means of a windlass the ladder is unfolded, and raised to the height of sixteen metres.

By this ladder any person may mount to the window, in order to assist in raising the bag, and fixing it firmly in its place. The ladder may be raised, mounted, the

bag fixed, and a person may descend, all in the space of three minutes.

Account of a Fire Escape used at Geneva.

(From the Bulletin de la Societie d'Encouragement.)

This machine has been successfully employed at Geneva for several years. M. Bordier has furnished the society with a drawing and description of it, from which the following is extracted.

It is a tube or slide of coarse cloth, of any convenient length, which may be carried as far as a hundred metres if required, the circumference is two metres, which, when the cloth is extended, forms a hollow cylinder, of about sixty-six centimetres in diameter.

This tube, which is attached to a ladder of ropes, is firmly fastened at one end to a light but strong square frame, of the same dimensions as a middling-sized casement window, to which the frame is fixed. The other end of the tube is closed. In the middle of the upper cloth a longitudinal slit is made, sufficiently large to admit a man; this end is fastened to a solid place, a little elevated above the ground, and distant from the face of the wall about half the height of the window, to which the other extremity of the tube is attached.

Persons, therefore, that enter, or are put into the upper orifice of this bag, will slide down by their own weight, and with an accelerated or retarded motion, according to the manner in which the apparatus is placed, or at the pleasure of the persons descending, who, by spreading the hands and feet, can regulate their own movements. The lower end of the tube being fixed to a point, a little raised from the ground, no part of the tube can touch the ground, consequently the persons descending run no risk of being hurt by coming suddenly upon the ground or pavement. The sick, wounded, and infirm, may be brought down the same way, only they must be wrapped in a vest with a cord attached to it, by which they may be drawn down.

The experiments made with this apparatus have completely succeeded; and twenty-two persons have descended by it in one minute and fifty seconds from a fourth story, fifteen metres from the ground.